

# The Columbus Commercial.

VOL. XXI.—No. 98.

COLUMBUS, MISS., SUNDAY MORNING, APRIL 2, 1916.

Semi-Weekly, \$2.00; Weekly, \$1.00 Per Year.

## MOTHERS AND TEACHERS OF MISSISSIPPI HOLD SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING AT COLLEGE

**MANY WOMEN OF GREAT  
PROMINENCE IN CHILD  
WELFARE WORK  
ATTEND.**

**NATIONAL PRESIDENT HERE**

**Mrs. Schoff of Philadelphia,  
Who Heads Organization,  
Makes Interesting Talks.**

**MRS. THATCHER  
DELIVERS ADDRESS**

**Meeting Proves to be One of  
the Most Successful Ever  
Held in Any Southern State.**

Yesterday marked the close of the seventh annual meeting of the Mississippi Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teachers' Association, which began at the Industrial Institute and College Friday, and at the final session yesterday afternoon the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Mrs. J. B. Lawrence, Jackson; first vice-president, Mrs. B. P. Hughes, Starkville; second vice-president, Mrs. F. S. Brame, Jackson; third vice-president, Mrs. H. H. McClanahan, Columbus; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Stephen L. Burwell, Lexington; recording secretary, Mrs. C. H. Bennett, Jackson; treasurer, Mrs. G. W. Covington, Hattiesburg; auditor, Mrs. A. F. Church, Laurel. The selection of a place for holding the next meeting was delegated to the executive committee.

The meeting was one of the most delightful as well as one of the most successful ever held, and many famous women were in attendance, prominent among the number having been Mrs. Frederic Schoff of Philadelphia and Mrs. E. T. Thatcher, president and treasurer respectively, of the national organization, and Mrs. James P. Mumford, a member of the editorial board of the Child Welfare magazine.

The initial session of the convention was held in the college chapel at 10 o'clock Friday morning, having been opened with an instrumental selection by Misses Curry and Wright, students of the music department of the institution, after which God's blessing upon the assemblage was invoked by Dr. J. L. Viperman, pastor of the First Baptist church. The delegates were then formally welcomed to the city, Prof. H. L. Whitfield, president of the college, and Prof. W. V. Frierson, superintendent of public schools, having delivered formal addresses, while Mrs. J. M. Kaufman, president of the Parent-Teachers' Association at the college, and Mrs. E. P. Wilkinson and Mrs. A. T. Sale extended greetings on behalf of similar organizations at Franklin Academy and the Barrow Memorial School. Then followed a vocal solo by Miss Zaida Musselwhite, after which response to the addresses of welcome was made by Mrs. J. Benjamin Lawrence, of Jackson, the state president. At the conclusion of Mrs. Lawrence's address there was a short talk by Mrs. Edward McGehee of Como, president of the State Federation of Women's Clubs. Reports of officers and delegates followed Mrs. McGehee's address, and a round table discussion, conducted by Mrs. Sue Stewart Brame, brought the session to an official close.

A vocal solo by Mrs. Martin Flood opened the afternoon session on Friday, and after a short period devoted to the discussion of routine business there was an address by Mrs. Thatcher, of Washington, D. C. A round table discussion led by Mrs. Frederic Schoff, of Philadelphia, president of the national organization, followed Mrs. Thatcher's address, and at its conclusion the delegates adjourned to the Mabel Ward practice home, where they attended a reception given in their honor by the local parent-teachers' associations.

Talks by Mrs. Schoff and Mrs. Thatcher featured Friday night's program, and Mrs. Schoff, who was the first speaker introduced, delivered an address which in erudition, diction and heart interest compares favorably with any ever heard in Columbus. She is a most magnetic as well as a most intelligent woman, and the enthusiasm which she evinced soon communicated itself to the

audience, which was a most responsive one. Selecting as her theme "Children's Opportunities and Handicaps," Mrs. Schoff gave a succinct history of the organization over which she presides, which, by the way, had its inception in the brain of a southern woman, Mrs. Theodore Birney, of Georgia. The speaker said that she had been drawn into the work by having brought to her notice the case of a little girl who was sentenced to the penitentiary for having stolen an article of trifling value. Her heart revolted at the idea of seeing this tiny tot go to the prison, where she would be thrown into daily contact with hardened criminals. Upon investigation, however, she found that there was no other place to which the girl could be sent, and she immediately became interested in child welfare and in the work of the Mothers' Congress, which now has branch organizations in a great majority of the states throughout the Union, and which has induced legislative bodies in most of these states to establish reformatories and houses of correction for delinquent adolescents. Mrs. Schoff made an earnest appeal to mothers to bestow more thought and care upon the training of their children. She said that of all the influences which make or mar the character of a child that of the home is far the most potent and principles instilled in them at their mothers' knees remain with them throughout their lives.

Mrs. Thatcher, who followed Mrs. Schoff spoke only a few minutes, but she talked long enough to convince the audience that patriotism is a strong factor in her nature and that her love for her country is almost, if not quite, as strong as her love for the children. The college chapel was decorated with a large number of American flags, and Mrs. Thatcher said she was glad to note this display of patriotism on the part of Columbians, as in many places recently visited she had been disappointed when the star-spangled banner failed to greet her in the auditorium in which meetings were held. Mrs. Thatcher is possessed of a commanding stage presence and a great deal of dramatic power, and her address, though exceedingly short, made a splendid impression on all who heard it.

In addition to the talks by Mrs. Schoff and Mrs. Thatcher Friday night a pleasing literary and musical program was given, Miss Mamie Liss Savage having appeared in a reading and Mrs. Ike Simon, Miss Mattie Lou Brown and Miss Josie Stewart having rendered vocal solos. Quite a number of interesting addresses were delivered yesterday, notable among them having been one by Miss Sarah Frances Rowan, head of the extension department of the college, who selected as her subject "How the Teachers Can Help the Mothers in Rural Communities." Mrs. Schoff and Mrs. Mumford also delivered addresses, and following the close of the conference yesterday afternoon the ladies attended an entertainment which was given by the students of the athletic department in the college gymnasium last night.

## FIGHTING AROUND VERDUN CONTINUES UNABATED

**GERMANS FORCE FRENCHMEN  
FROM MALANCOURT  
VILLAGE.**

The Germans, in a fierce attack on the French positions northeast of Hill 295, in the Le Mort Homme region, some three miles east of Malancourt, gained a footing in some of the French first line trenches, but were immediately driven out in a vigorous counter attack, according to a French official communication last evening. The Germans have made no attempt to debouch from Malancourt, which they hold.

The hospital ship Portugal has been sunk in the Black Sea by a German torpedo boat or submarine, with a large number of wounded aboard, according to an announcement of the official press bureau. It is said that the Portugal had the Red Cross sign conspicuously displayed.

German pressure on the Malancourt-Bethincourt salient, northwest of Verdun, has proved too much for the French on the western end of the position and they have been forced out of Malancourt village.

## CHANCERY COURT BEGINS SPRING SESSION TOMORROW

**CONTROVERSY OVER WILL OF  
MRS. M. B. PORTWOOD MOST  
IMPORTANT CASE.**

The spring term of chancery court for Lowndes county will convene at the court house at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning, being presided over by Hon. Albert Y. Woodward of Louisville, presiding judge of the Sixth chancery district.

The most important case on the docket is a controversy over the ownership of the estate of the late Mrs. Portwood, who died last February, leaving property valued at about \$50,000. Two wills, each naming different relatives as legatees, have been filed for probate, and the impending legal contest is to decide which one of these instruments is valid.

In addition to the Portwood will controversy a number of other cases are docketed for adjudication, most of them being suits for divorce in which negroes are litigants.

## E. C. CHAPMAN IN THE RACE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TRUSTEE

**CASHIER OF NATIONAL BANK  
OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES  
HIS CANDIDACY.**

Mr. E. C. Chapman is announced this morning as an aspirant for the office of public school trustee, and his candidacy will undoubtedly receive careful consideration at the hands of the voters of Columbus.

Mr. Chapman is prominent in both financial and religious circles, being cashier of the National Bank of Commerce and a deacon of the First Baptist church. This is not his first entrance into the political arena, as he was many years ago a member of the councilman board, and in that position served his constituents faithfully and well.

That Mr. Chapman is not only possessed of splendid business ability but of honesty and integrity as well is a generally admitted fact, and if elected, he will undoubtedly make a most efficient public school trustee.

## MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE WILL PLAY A. & M. HERE APRIL 11

**OTHER GAMES SCHEDULED  
TO TAKE PLACE AT LAKE  
PARK SOON.**

Officials of the Columbus Railway, Light and Power Company have consented to run cars to Lake Park on special occasions and on yesterday Mr. G. M. Flynn received word from Coach Chadwick, of the A. and M. College, stating that Mississippi College would meet his team in this city on Tuesday, April 11.

Other college games will also be played here in the near future. The University of Mississippi and the A. and M. will probably meet here on April 26, and on May 5 and 6 the A. and M. will play a couple of games here with the University of Alabama.

## MAIN BAND OF VILLA'S ARMY IS CUT TO PIECES BY TROOPS UNDER THE COMMAND OF COL. DODD

El Paso, Texas, April 1.—Four hundred American cavalrymen, under the direction of Col. George A. Dodd, galloping down from the slopes of the great continental divide, have fallen on the main body of Francisco Villa's bandits at the San Geronimo ranch, scattering them in many directions and driving the bandit chief, wounded and crippled, to seek a hiding place in the mountains. Villa was hurried from danger in a carriage. The fight opened at 6 o'clock in the morning of March 29 and continued for several hours.

The news of the exploit was flashed into Jaurez yesterday and sent a thrill along the border. For 17 hours the veteran colonel with picked troops from the Seventh and Tenth cavalry drove down the valley of the Santa Maria river. At the end of a 55-mile ride they fell upon the unsuspecting Villa camp,

## LEGISLATURE TO ADJOURN APRIL 8

**RESOLUTION FIXING LAT-  
ER DATE RECONSIDER-  
ED BY LAWMAKERS.**

**HOUSE REDUCES  
COLLEGE FUND**

**Senate, However, Refuses to  
Agree and Conference Com-  
mittee is Appointed.**

Jackson, Miss., April 1.—The administration bond issue measure, carrying \$950,000 for permanent improvements to state institutions and the centennial exposition building, passed the Senate Friday by a vote of 24 to 11. The issue is to take care of old bonds, \$500,000 having already been provided for in a separate bill.

The House adopted a conference committee reports on the A. and M. College bill and for the support of the I. I. and C. The Starkville institution gets the same support as in 1914 under the compromise, while the Senate came to the House figures reducing the appropriation for the Columbus college for girls.

The bill to dispose of the Rankin state farm was indefinitely postponed. Many Senate amendments to numerous House bills were adopted. Showing the determination of the two houses to get together on matters that long have been in dispute between them.

The House concurred in Senate amendments to the game and fish bill, which now goes to the governor for his approval. Evidences accumulated to show that the session is almost over.

The House and Senate have agreed that the date of final adjournment shall be April 8th, the concurrent resolution to that effect having been adopted in both houses at Friday's session. Now that the date has been advanced revenue and appropriation bills can be considered until Monday night.

The Senate is apparently coming to the House point of view on many matters upon which the two branches of the Legislature have disagreed since early in the session. The Senate passed the House bill fixing the state tax levy for 1916 and 1917 at six mills, thereby recinding its action of a few days ago, when it passed the Blount bill, making the tax levy seven mills. The higher tax levy bill was indefinitely postponed by the lower house after having been adversely by ways and means committee and was opposed by the governor; who stated that he would have vetoed it had it passed both houses.

The Senate also refused to concur in the numerous House amendments reducing the appropriation for the support of the I. I. and C. at Columbus. A conference was asked just before adjournment this afternoon and Lieut.-Gov. Russell named Senators Eskridge, Adams and Boggan as the state conferees on the measure.

Both branches of the Legislature on Friday adopted resolutions moving up the date for final adjournment one week, from April 5 to April 12, after it had been made as plain as the nose on one's face that it would be impossible to quit ear-

Continued on page two.

Mr. F. V. Woods, of Artesia, spent Friday in the city on business.

## RURAL SCHOOLS HOLD FIELD DAY

**ANNUAL MEET TAKES  
PLACE ON CAMPUS OF  
I. I. AND C.**

**PROMINENT WOMEN  
WITNESS CONTESTS**

**Air Line School Leads Oppon-  
ents in Feats to Test Ath-  
letic Prowess.**

Children of the rural schools of the county had their annual field day on the campus of the Industrial Institute and College yesterday, and the occasion proved to be a delightful one, having been enjoyed not only by the adolescents who engaged in the various contests which helped to comprise the program but by interested spectators, among whom were many delegates to the Mississippi Mothers' Congress and Parent-Teachers' Association, which held its annual session Friday and Saturday. These ladies are especially interested in child welfare work, and the field day exercises yesterday afforded them a splendid opportunity for seeing what Lowndes county has accomplished in this direction.

During the session which is now so rapidly drawing towards its close Miss Sarah Frances Rowan, the efficient head of the college extension department, and a number of her students have visited regularly many of the rural schools of the county and have given the pupils valuable instruction in the various branches of home science which serve to make rural life a pleasure rather than a burden. The contests yesterday were arranged with the view of testing the efficiency of the children in the various branches in which they have been given instruction, and the result showed that they had studied assiduously and had learned their lessons well.

The following points were won by the different schools represented: Air Line, 28; Lone Oak, 53; Woodlawn, 130; Rural Hill, 158; Mt. Vernon, 160.

Millinery—Lone Oak, first; Mt. Vernon, second; Rural Hill, third.

Art—Mt. Vernon, first; Rural

Continued on page four.

## W. T. LAWRENCE SEEKS A PLACE ON SCHOOL BOARD

**HIS CANDIDACY FOR THIS OF-  
FICE IS OFFICIALLY AN-  
NOUNCED TO PUBLIC.**

The candidacy of Mr. Walter T. Lawrence for the office of public school trustee has been officially announced.

Mr. Lawrence is well known to the people of Columbus, and needs no introduction or encomium at the hands of the Commercial. He is associated with Robertson and Co., Inc., and enjoys a large acquaintance not only among the patrons of that establishment but among the public generally.

Mr. Lawrence is honest, capable and energetic, and should he be elected, will serve his constituents faithfully and zealously.

## RESULT OF RECENT ELECTION WELDS COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM

**MAN HURT WHEN AUTO  
AND MOTORCYCLE CRASH**

**MR. OSCAR COSWELL RECEIVES  
PAINFUL INJURIES AND IS  
TAKEN TO HOSPITAL.**

In a collision between an automobile and a motorcycle which took place at the corner of College and Ninth streets late yesterday afternoon, Mr. Oscar Coswell, who was driving the motorcycle, sustained painful, though not serious injuries.

Mr. Coswell's wife was riding on the motorcycle with him at the time of the accident and the automobile was being driven by Mrs. John Elliot, neither lady, however, was hurt as a result of the impact.

Dr. W. C. Brewer, surgeon-in-charge of the Columbus Hospital, where Mr. Coswell was taken after the accident, stated last night that his injuries were not serious and he would probably be alright within a few days.

## MONDAY LAST DAY ON WHICH CANDIDATES CAN QUALIFY

**ALL NAMES MUST BE IN HANDS  
OF SECRETARY OF COMMIT-  
TEE BY TOMORROW.**

Tomorrow is the last day upon which aspirants for office in the pending municipal race can qualify and in order to have their names placed upon the official ballots candidates must pay their assessments to Hon. W. B. Harris, secretary of the Municipal Democratic Executive Committee, on that date.

The law provides that all candidates must qualify two weeks prior to the date of the election at which they are to go before the people, and as the impending contest is to take place a fortnight from next Tuesday tomorrow is the last day upon which entrance into the race can be legally made.

It is practically certain that a second primary will be necessary, as in several instances notably in the mayoralty race, there are three candidates for a single office, and it is hardly likely that any one candidate will receive a majority of the votes cast in the first election. The law provides that the second primary shall be held within seven days from the first contest, and this means that the run-off will occur not later than Tuesday, April 24.

Interest in the approaching election is increasing daily, and it has been many years since a municipal contest has elicited so much speculation and comment. Much of this interest naturally centers in the mayoralty race, and it is generally conceded that this contest will be a close one, as each of three candidates, Messrs. E. S. Donnell, W. C. Guiter and Louis Shall are exceedingly popular and each has many loyal friends who are working valiantly in their behalf.

## HAPPENINGS OF INTEREST GATHERED HERE AND THERE

**GIST OF NEWS FROM OVER THE  
COUNTRY GIVEN IN A BRIEF  
FORM.**

Dr. Cary T. Grayson, President Wilson's physician and naval aide, and Miss Abbie Gertrude Gordon of Washington, Mrs. Wilson's most intimate friend, will be married within the next two months.

Thomas Taggart, recently appointed United States Senator from Indiana to succeed the late Senator Shively, has issued a statement declining to be a candidate for the Senatorial nomination to succeed himself.

A novel feature of ships which are being built for the National Steam Navigation Company, of Greece, is a little church which will be fitted on board of each vessel.

Late returns from Wednesday's primary indicate that C. H. Brough, democrat, has been nominated for governor of Arkansas by not less than 3,100 majority. Brough defeated Earl W. Hodges, running on a repeal of prohibition laws and L. C. Smith, who ran on a local option platform. Brough was nominated on a statewide prohibition platform. Ernest Schiller, the young Ger-

**CITIZENS OF FIRST DIS-  
TRICT VOTE TO EXPEND  
\$40,000 ON THEIR PUB-  
LIC HIGHWAYS.**

## MATTERS FINALLY SETTLED

**Issuance of Bonds Means Com-  
pletion of Jackson Highway  
Through County.**

**TOTAL OF \$375,000  
VOTED FOR ROADS**

**Lowndes Will Soon Have  
Highway System Equal to  
Any County in the State.**

By voting to expend the sum of \$40,000 in the improvement of highways citizens of the First supervisor's district have demonstrated their progressiveness and willingness to join the march of progress which citizens in other districts throughout the county long ago took up, an election which was held there Thursday having resulted in a victory for the proposed bond issue by a vote of 166 to 121.

The result of the election is of far more than local importance, as the issuance of the bonds means not only the practical completion of the good roads system of Lowndes county but the completion of the Mississippi route of the proposed Jackson Memorial Highway insofar as this county is concerned. The only portion of the route lying in the borders of the county that is not in good shape is a short stretch of roadway in the First district, and the decision of the people to issue the bonds means that this roadway will at once be improved.

Realizing the importance of the election, promoters of the Jackson Memorial Highway in this immediate section evinced a keen interest in its outcome. A public meeting was held at Caledonia, the metropolis of the First district, on March 24, and in eloquent language good roads boosters urged citizens present to vote for the bonds, having submitted figures to show that the issuance of these would result in only a very small increase in the rate of taxation.

Among those who manifested deep and unabiding interest in the outcome of the election were Hon. B. A. Weaver, Hon. T. J. Locke, Jr., and Capt. D. D. Stephenson, who comprise the good roads commission of district No. 2, and its result is largely due to the efforts on their part. Mr. Weaver and Mr. Locke attended the boosters' meeting which was held at Caledonia, and personally urged citizens to vote for the bonds, while the commission officially agreed to furnish \$20,000 towards road improvement in the First district provided its citizens would vote to expend double the amount for a similar purpose.

The \$40,000 bond issue recently provided makes a total of \$375,000 that the people of Lowndes county have voted for public highway improvement during the past eighteen months. Every district in the county has voted bonds for this purpose except the third, and as the people of this district are live and progressive it is believed that they will soon join the movement.

**Garage Nearing Completion.**  
The large building that is being erected at 611 Main street by Mr. Battle Bell, and which is to be occupied by the Wright Auto Sales Company, is nearing completion and Mr. Wright states that he will begin moving into his new quarters Monday, and be ready for business there Tuesday. This is to be one of the largest and best equipped garages in the state.

Misses Christine Beckwith and Marguerite Hinds are spending the week-end with friends in West Point.

man who single-handed captured the British steamer Matopopo and terrorized her crew of 56 men on the high seas Wednesday, has been carried to Harrington, Del., because of threats to rescue him. Detectives say they have positive information that attempts would be made to liberate the prisoner.